

Ann Matthews House
1001-03 Lexington Avenue
First Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5796

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
30-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ANN MATTHEWS HOUSE

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PA.
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30-

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Location: 1001-03 Lexington Avenue

Date of Erection: ca. 1870

Description: This two-and-a-half-story double house is wood frame with clapboard siding. There is a side-gable roof with paired round-arched windows and cornice returns in the gable. The six-bay front, 36' across, has two doors in the center bays. The windows retain their original segmentally arched sashes. The foundation is stone.

History: This large double house was built ca. 1870 for Ann Matthews, who acquired a lot fronting 74' on Lexington Avenue from George Wehn of Johnstown in 1868. The property rose in value from \$300 to \$1,300 between 1870 and 1871. By 1873, Matthews married Samuel McCormick, a carpenter; they lived in No. 1001 with their three children and a niece. By 1900, Samuel McCormick had died, and his widow took in boarders, including Charles Nicholson, a watchmaker for W. F. Sellers & Co.

The other half of the double house, No. 1003, was occupied by William Spielman, a clerk at the PRR freight depot, in 1878. Ann McCormick sold it to Mary Williamson in 1879. James Williamson, her husband, was a janitor, and they lived here with their five children.

Sources: Maps: 1859, 1882, 1888. City directories. Tax assessment records. Deed hooks: K/73, W/571, 41/125, 175/80, 463/478, 309/372, 759/62. U.S. Census, 1880, 1900.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of the first ward neighborhood (HABS No. PA-5788) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by HABS Senior Historian Alison K. Hoagland, project leader and editor, in the summer of 1989. Hoagland's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.